

Remarks

Currently pending are claims 1-16. Applicants have amended claim 1 to correct an obvious error in component a) and to further define component b) so that methyl(meth)acrylate is present in the reaction product. Support for the amendment may be found in Applicants specification at, for example, paragraph [0031] on page 2 of the published application. In view of the amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has restricted the claims and has requested the Applicants to select one of the following:

Group I, claims 1-8, drawn to a polymer;

Group II, claims 9-11, drawn to a polymer composition.

Group III, claims 12-14, drawn to a method of making an etch resist image or solder resist image; and

Group IV, claims 15-16, drawn to a laminate comprising the polymer of Group I.

Applicants reaffirm their election, with traverse, of Group I, claim 1-8, drawn to a polymer, for continued prosecution. Applicants elect with traverse because simultaneous examination of the inventions does not impose an undue burden of examination on the Examiner.

If the restriction requirement is made final, Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of non-elected inventions in or more continuing applications.

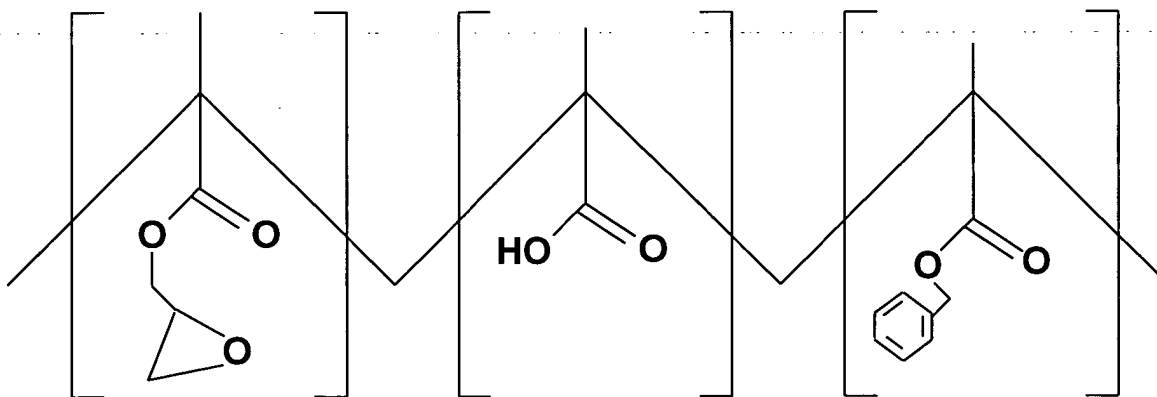
Specification

The Examiner requested a new abstract of the disclosure be submitted on a separate sheet. Applicants have amended the specification to include the abstract on a separate sheet, apart from the text.

35 U.S.C. § 102

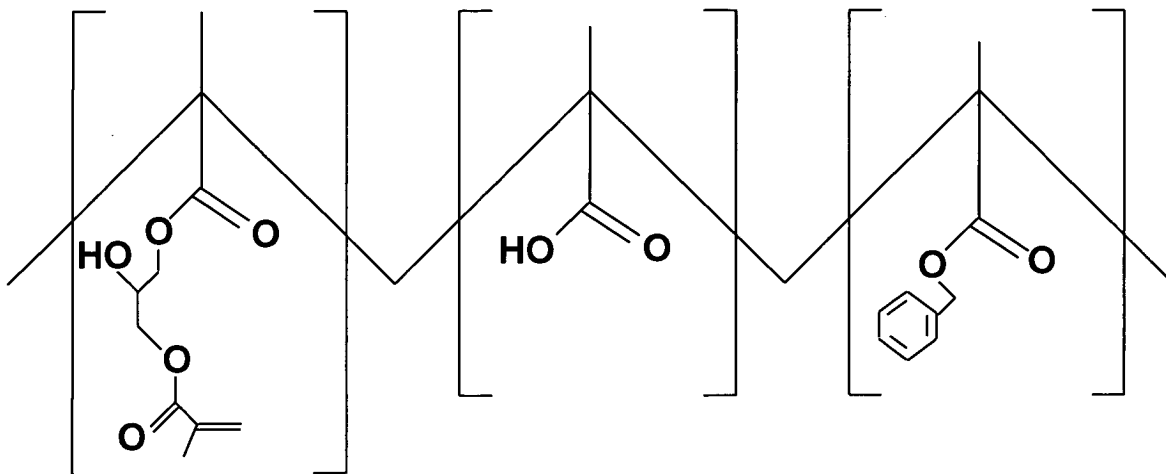
The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Urano et al. (US Pat No 5,800,952).

Urano et al. disclose a photopolymerizable composition that may include an organic binder polymer material. The polymer material may be a reaction product of epoxy (meth)acrylate added to the co-monomers benzyl (meth)acrylate and (meth)acrylic acid (*see* Urano et al. at col. 7, lines 38-49):

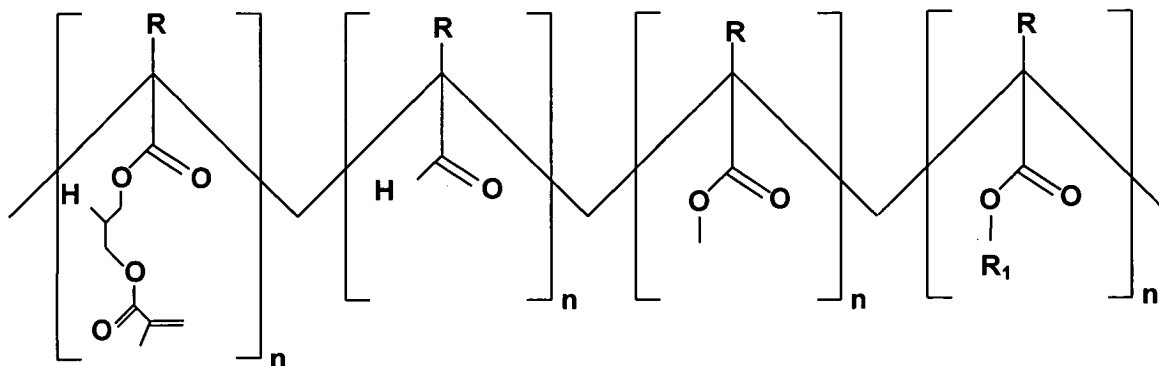


The free OH groups in this structure would open the epoxy rings, and therefore, this reaction product could no longer be further reacted in a glycidylation step as described in Urano et al. at col. 7, lines 28-36.

At best, Urano et al. disclose an organic binder polymer material having the structure:



In comparison, Applicants claimed reaction product includes: (i) acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or a mixture of acrylic and methacrylic acid and (ii) a (meth)acrylic ester of substituted or unsubstituted phenol, C₁-C₈ hydroxyalkylbenzene or C₁-C₈ hydroxyalkoxybenzene and methyl(meth)acrylate in a ratio (percent by weight) of 7.1:92.9 to 50:50 with 5-90% of the acrylic or (meth)acrylic units having reacted with a glycidylvinyl compound. Therefore, Applicants claim a reaction product having the general structure:



where R is either hydrogen or methyl and R₁ is substituted or unsubstituted phenol, C₁-C₈ hydroxyalkylbenzene or C₁-C₈ hydroxyalkoxybenzene.

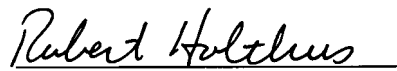
Thus, the reaction products disclosed in Urano et al. do not anticipate Applicants claimed reaction product. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed towards the pending claims.

Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,


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